

Katherine High takes the trophy

Defamation allegations were the subject of the 1999 Qantas Inter-School Mock Trial Grand Final which saw Katherine High take home the trophy after a case which tested the students legal, oral and drama skills.

Finalist teams, Katherine and St Phillips pitted their skills at the Alice Springs Court House after winning their respective heats in a gruelling three round competition over the previous three months.

Katherine High School represented the plaintiff Mary Alice Petite in a case against Cruela Devil. It was alleged that Cruela Devil defamed the plaintiff, Mary Alice Petite, by saying "You're not serious in that positively pathetic pink ensemble, it's hideous and so are you". While Mary Alice Petite's claims were dismissed, the Katherine team, who had driven to Dar-

win and back to compete in the preliminary rounds, finally triumphed, winning the competition between the northern and southern regions by six points.



The 1999 Grand Final teams from Katherine and Alice Springs

The case was adjudicated by Justice Riley who commented that the standard of legal skills displayed by both the competing teams was exceptional.

When handing down his decision, Justice Riley commended the students on their performance and commented that



The Trophy will stay with Katherine High School till next year's Grand Final.

although the plaintiff, Mary Alice Petite did not initially appear nasty or shallow enough, she proceeded to become more nasty and more shallow as the grand final wore on.

The finalists injected a great deal of humour into their performances and dressed in their interpretation of the characters involved.

At the post final dinner, held at Ainsley's Restaurant at the Vista Motel, the students took the opportunity to discuss their performances and get to know one another. Justice Riley presented the trophies and congratulated the competitors on their efforts.



Mary Alice Petite and Cruela Devil - "Pink is pathetic, I need black" - Devil (seated) played their part at the Mock Trial Grand Final. According to Justice Riley, Mary Alice Petite became 'more nasty and shallow' as the case progressed.

ANZ Securities Operations - Northern Territory

The ANZ Darwin office is relocating all document production, security packet custody and customer support to their Adelaide Securities department. While Settlement Officers will continue to operate in Darwin on a part time basis, these changes will have some impact on Law Society members:

1. Purchase Contracts - ANZ's branches will process these applications in Adelaide. ANZ will require a minimum 5 business days notice in order to book and coordinate settlements for purchase settlements.
2. Discharge/ Releases - e.g. Property Sales/ Refinances to other organisations. The current industry practise is for members to inform banks/financial institutions of a pending discharge settlement at the time a contract is accepted. Provided this practice continues then ANZ should have no problems preparing the security re-

lease, providing payout details and coordinating the settlement within the scheduled time frames.

All security releases will now be produced in Adelaide and have to be mailed to Darwin for settlement. As a minimum standard, ANZ will require three business days notice in order to book and coordinate a discharge/releases settlement. All sales notices and security release requests can be faxed (08 8218 8100) or mailed directly to the Adelaide office for action.

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